

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicle having a front end and a rear end and a frame, and further having at least one vehicle component requiring compressed air, said frame having at least a pair of spaced-apart main members extending in the directions of said front and rear ends, and at least one suspension assembly hanger depending from each of said main members, wherein the improvement comprises:

tank means for storing said compressed air, said tank means being pneumatically connected to said compressed air-requiring vehicle component, said tank means generally extending between and being secured to selected ones of said frame main members and said hangers for forming part of the structure of said frame, so that the frame reacts loads imposed on said frame during operation of said vehicle.

2. The vehicle of Claim 1, in which said frame is selected from the group consisting of a primary fixed frame or a secondary movable subframe.

3. The vehicle of Claim 1, in which said frame main members are elongated and parallel.

4. The vehicle of Claim 3, in which said tank means is a generally cylindrical-shaped vessel having a pair of ends; and in which said vessel is disposed perpendicular to said main members and said hangers.

5. The vehicle of Claim 4, in which each end of said vessel is secured to bracket means; and in which said bracket means is secured to respective ones of said main members and said suspension assembly hangers.

6. The vehicle of Claim 4, in which each end of said vessel is secured to a respective one of said suspension assembly hangers.

7. The vehicle of Claim 4, in which each end of said vessel is secured to bracket means; and in which said bracket means is secured to a respective one of said main members.

8. The vehicle of Claim 4, in which a plurality of spaced-apart, parallel tank means extend between said main members.

9. The vehicle of Claim 5, in which said bracket means is an end cap for sealing the open ends of said vessel.

10. The vehicle of Claim 4, in which said vehicle includes a suspension assembly beam mounted on said hanger; in which said beam includes a first end mounted on said hanger and a second end attached to an air spring; and in which said air spring is mounted on a respective one of said main members.

11. The vehicle of Claim 10, in which said vessel extends between and is attached to bracket means adjacent to said air springs.

12. The vehicle of Claim 10, in which said vessel extends between and is attached to said hangers.

13. The vehicle of Claim 10, in which said vessel extends between and is attached to bracket means intermediate said air springs and said hangers.

14. The vehicle of Claim 10, in which said vessel extends between and is attached to bracket means adjacent to said hangers.